(c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(d) The pipeline between Vizag to Vijayawada and beyond upto Ghatkesar near Secunderabad is being utilized for evacuation of MS/HSD/SKO/Naptha from Vizag Refinery. Further, these products are being distributed through tap-off point constructed at Rajamundhry in the District of East and West Godavari.

(e) and (f) There is no such specific commitment made by the HPCL to the villagers. However, the pipeline has been laid in private lands as per provisions of the Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines Act 1962, by acquiring the Right of Use (RoU) for the land. There is no complaint, on record, with the Company from any of the villages on the pipeline route.

Issues raised by recognized Union of ONGC

811. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recognized Unions in ONGC had served notice under Section 22(1) against the management on 27/29-11-2006;

(b) if so, what were the issues pointed out by these Unions;

(c) how many meetings have been held in between November, 2006 to till date to discuss the demands of the recognized Unions; and

(d) the demands which are yet to be finalized by the management with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The recognized unions in Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) under the banner of All India ONGC Trade Unions Co-ordination Committee had served notice of Direct Action *vide* their letter dated 27-11-2006.

(b) The issues raised by the Unions are as follows:

1. Immediate stoppage of engagement of 'Tenure based' employment in ONGC in violation of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) dated 19th August, 2004, with the recognized unions of ONGG. All the recruitments henceforth in ONGC in the Unionized category should be made on regular basis only in accordance with the provisions of MoU dated 19th August, 2004 on MRPR-80.

2. Existing tenure based employees engaged in the Organization as Field Operators should be regularized from the date of their joining in ONGC.

3. Dependant of Deceased employees (DoD) cases who have been offered employment prior to Composite Social Security Scheme (CSSS) on tenure basis should be regularized from the date of their appointment on regular basis and the remaining DoD's employees who have not been given employment till date should be given regular employment immediately.

4. Regularization of contingent, casual, direct employees and term based workers engaged directly by ONGC.

5. Contractual/Society workers, contingents etc., appointed by ONGC through Contractors should be paid Class-IV basic pay+Dearness allowance (DA) gratuity and other statutory benefits including life insurance cover.

6. Scrapping of Operational and Maintenance Contract (O&M) given to the contractors of filmsy grounds.

7. Immediate implementation of merger of 50% DA in Basis Pay *w.e.f.* 1.4.2005.

8. The discrimination and disparity with the unionized category in distribution of additional annual incentive (Profit Sharing) should be immediately removed by evolving a new distribution formula.

(c) 14 meeting have been held with representatives of the recognized unions on various dates to discuss the issues of common interest.

(d) (i) Issue within the purview of the management of ONGC have been addressed as discussed with the recognized unions from time to time.

(ii) The issue of merger of 50% D.A. is to be decided by the Govt. of India for all Central PSUs following the Industrial DA pattern.

(iii) The demand for regularizaiton of tenure based employees raised by the ONGC Employees Mazdoor Sabha, Vadodra is pending before the Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal, Ahmedabad in ID No. 1476/2004.

Employment of term/tenure based workers in ONGC

812. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the term/tenure based workers were employed in the ONGC prior to the amendment of 'Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Central Rules, 1946';

(b) if so, the number of such employees in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Assam; and

(c) what action is taken by the Department or the Ministry for the demand of the above employees who have completed mroe than four years and are allowed to continue on their respective jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of persons engaged prior to the amendment of Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Central Rule, 1946 is as under:

Gujarat	-	577	
Maharashtra	-	83	
Assam	-	07	
TOTAL:		-	667

(c) Tenure based engagement was initially for 4 years. On completion of the initial tenure, the personnel meeting the job requirement and eligibility criteria were re-engaged for a fresh term of another 4 years.

Revision of gas prices

†813. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of gas have been revised several times in the country during the last two years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.